Parabolic differential-functional inequalities in viscosity sense

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Abstract. We consider viscosity solutions for second order differential-functional equations of parabolic type. Initial value and mixed problems are studied. Comparison theorems for subsolutions, supersolutions and solutions are considered.

1. Introduction. Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be any open domain and T > 0, $\tau_0, r \in \mathbb{R}_+ = [0, \infty)$ given constants. Define

$$\Omega_r = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \operatorname{dist}(x, \Omega) \le r \}, \quad \delta_0 \Omega = \Omega_r \setminus \Omega, \quad \Theta = (0, T) \times \Omega,$$

$$\Theta_0 = [-\tau_0, 0] \times \Omega_r, \quad \delta_0 \Theta = (0, T) \times \delta_0 \Omega, \quad \Gamma = \Theta_0 \cup \delta_0 \Theta, \quad E = \Gamma \cup \Theta.$$

(Note that if $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^n$ then $\Omega_r = \mathbb{R}^n$, $\delta_0 \Theta = \delta_0 \Omega = \emptyset$ and $\Gamma = \Theta_0$.) Let $D = [-\tau_0, 0] \times B(r)$, where $B(r) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| \le r\}$ and $|\cdot|$ is the Euclidean norm in \mathbb{R}^n . For every $z : E \to \mathbb{R}$ and $(t, x) \in \Theta$ we define a function $z_{(t,x)} : D \to \mathbb{R}$ by $z_{(t,x)}(s,y) = z(t+s,x+y)$ for $(s,y) \in D$.

For every metric space X we denote by C(X) the class of all continuous functions from X into \mathbb{R} and by $\mathrm{BUC}(X)$ the class of all uniformly continuous and bounded functions from X into \mathbb{R} . We will write $\|\cdot\|_X$ for the supremum norm. Let $\mathcal{M}(n)$ stand for the space of $n \times n$ real symmetric matrices. Recall that $A \geq B$ if for all $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$ we have $\langle A\xi, \xi \rangle \geq \langle B\xi, \xi \rangle$ where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ denotes the standard inner product. For $A \in \mathcal{M}(n)$ we denote by $\|A\|$ the norm of A. Let $F: \Theta \times \mathbb{R} \times C(D) \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathcal{M}(n) \to \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous function of the variables (t, x, u, w, p, A) and $g \in C(\Gamma)$ be a given function.

We write $C^{1,2}(\Theta)$ (resp. $C^{1,2}(E)$) for the set of all functions from Θ (resp. E) into \mathbb{R} with continuous derivatives $D_t u, D_x u, D_x^2 u$.

We consider the initial-boundary value problem

(1)
$$D_t z + F(t, x, z(t, x), z_{(t,x)}, D_x z(t, x), D_x^2 z(t, x)) = 0$$
 in Θ ,

(2)
$$z(t,x) = q(t,x)$$
 in Γ .

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Even though we say "initial-boundary value problem" it is an initial value problem for $\Theta = (0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^n$.

Problem (1), (2) contains as a particular case equations with retarded argument and a few kinds of differential-integral equations.

DEFINITION 1. A function $u \in C(E)$ is called F-subparabolic (resp. F-superparabolic) provided for all $\psi \in C^{1,2}(\Theta)$, if $u - \psi$ attains a local maximum (resp. minimum) at $(t_0, x_0) \in \Theta$ then

$$F(t_0, x_0, u(t_0, x_0), u_{(t_0, x_0)}, D_x \psi(t_0, x_0), A)$$

$$\geq F(t_0, x_0, u(t_0, x_0), u_{(t_0, x_0)}, D_x \psi(t_0, x_0), B)$$

whenever $A \leq B$.

A function $u \in C(E)$ is called F-parabolic if u is both F-subparabolic and F-superparabolic.

DEFINITION 2. A function $u \in C(E)$ is a viscosity subsolution (resp. supersolution) of (1), (2) if u is F-subparabolic (resp. F-superparabolic) and provided for all $\varphi \in C^{1,2}(\Theta)$, if $u - \varphi$ attains a local maximum (resp. minimum) at $(t_0, x_0) \in \Theta$ then

(3)
$$D_t \varphi(t_0, x_0) + F(t_0, x_0, u(t_0, x_0), u_{(t_0, x_0)}, D_x \varphi(t_0, x_0), D_x^2 \varphi(t_0, x_0) \leq 0$$

(resp. $D_t \varphi(t_0, x_0) + F(t_0, x_0, u(t_0, x_0), u_{(t_0, x_0)}, D_x \varphi(t_0, x_0), D_x^2 \varphi(t_0, x_0) \geq 0$) and

(4)
$$u(t,x) \le g(t,x)$$
 (resp. $u(t,x) \ge g(t,x)$) in Γ

DEFINITION 3. A function $u \in C(E)$ is a viscosity solution of (1), (2) if u is both a viscosity subsolution and supersolution of (1), (2).

We denote by SUB(F, g), SUP(F, g), SOL(F, g) the sets of all viscosity subsolutions, supersolutions and solutions of problem (1), (2).

The following is immediate:

REMARK 1. If $u \in C(E) \cap C^{1,2}(\Theta)$ then $u \in SOL(F,g)$ (resp. $u \in SUB(F,g), SUP(F,g)$) if and only if u is a classical solution (resp. subsolution, supersolution) of (1), (2).

This notion of solution was first introduced by M. G. Crandall and P. L. Lions in [4] and [6] for first order differential equations. The best general reference for second order equations is [3].

There are two ways of estimating solutions for parabolic inequalities. We can use one-variable or multi-variable comparison functions. The second method is presented in [5]. This work is devoted to the first. The main result for classical solutions were announced by J. Szarski in [7] and for functional-differential equations by the same author in [8, 9]. Sufficient conditions for the existence of classical solutions for functional-differential equations were given by Brzychczy in [1, 2].

2. Viscosity inequalities. A function ω is said to satisfy condition "P" if $\omega \in C([0,T] \times \mathbb{R}_+)$ is nondecreasing, positive and the right-hand maximum solution of the problem

(5)
$$y'(t) = \omega(t, y(t)), \quad y(0) = \sigma,$$

exists in [0,T]. We will denote this solution by $\mu(t,\sigma)$.

Write $a^+ = \max(0, a)$, $a^- = \max(0, -a)$ for $a \in \mathbb{R}$. For $G \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ set $G_t = \{(s, x) \in G : -\tau_0 \le s \le t\}$.

PROPOSITION 1. Let a > 0 and $h, H \in C([0, a])$. Assume that h is a viscosity solution of $h' \leq H$ (i.e. h is a viscosity subsolution of h' = H) in (0, a). Then

$$h(t) \le h(s) + \int_{s}^{t} H(\tau) d\tau$$
 for $0 \le s \le t \le a$.

The proof can be found in [4], p. 12.

We will need the following

Assumption 1. 1) There exists a function ω satisfying condition "P" such that for all $(t, x, u, w) \in \Theta \times \mathbb{R} \times C(D)$, if $u \geq 0$ then

$$F(t, x, u, w, 0, 0) \ge -\omega(t, \max(u, ||w^+||_D)).$$

2) For every R > 0 and $|u|, ||w||_D \le R$,

$$[F(t, x, u, w, 0, 0) - F(t, x, u, w, p, A)]^+ \to 0$$
 as $p, A \to 0$

uniformly with respect to $(t, x, u, w) \in \Theta \times \mathbb{R} \times C(D)$.

THEOREM 1. Suppose that F satisfies Assumption 1 and $z \in BUC(E) \cap SUB(F,g)$. Then

(6)
$$||z^+||_{E_t} \le \mu(t, ||g^+||_{\Gamma_t}) \quad \text{for } t \in [0, T].$$

Proof. Put

(7)
$$M(t) = ||z^+||_{\overline{\Theta}_t}, \quad \overline{M}(t) = ||z^+||_{\overline{E}_t}, \quad M_0(t) = ||z^+||_{\overline{\Gamma}_t} \quad \text{for } t \in [0, T].$$

Since z is uniformly continuous it follows that M, \overline{M}, M_0 are continuous. (Note that if $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^n$ then $M_0(t) \equiv M_0(0)$.) It is evident that it suffices to show (6) for t = T.

If $M(T) \leq M_0(T)$ there is nothing to prove. Suppose that $M(T) > M_0(T)$. Since $M(0) \leq M_0(0)$ there exists $t^* \in [0, T)$ such that

(8)
$$\overline{M}(t^*) = M(t^*) = M_0(t^*)$$
 and $M(t) > M_0(t)$ for $t \in (t^*, T]$.

We will show that

(9)
$$M'(t) \le \omega(t, M(t))$$
 in viscosity sense for $t \in (t^*, T)$

(i.e. M is a viscosity subsolution of $y' = \omega(t, y)$). Let $\eta \in C^1((t^*, T))$ and suppose $M - \eta$ attains a local maximum at $t_0 \in (t^*, T)$. Since M is nondecreasing it is clear that $\eta'(t_0) \geq 0$. We claim that

(10)
$$\eta'(t_0) \le \omega(t_0, M(t_0)).$$

Indeed, if $\eta'(t_0) = 0$ then (10) is obvious. Let $\eta'(t_0) > 0$. It follows from Lemma 1.4 of [4] that we can find a nondecreasing function $\overline{\eta} \in C^1([t^*, T])$ such that $\overline{\eta}'(t_0) = \eta'(t_0)$ and $(M - \overline{\eta})(t_0) > (M - \overline{\eta})(t)$ for $t \neq t_0$. To simplify notation we continue to write η for $\overline{\eta}$.

Put $I = [t^*, T]$. Define $\Phi: I \times \overline{\Omega} \to \mathbb{R}$ by

(11)
$$\Phi(t,x) = z(t,x)^{+} - \eta(t).$$

Let $\delta > 0$ and let $(t', x') \in I \times \overline{\Omega}$ be such that $\Phi(t', x') > \sup \Phi - \delta$. Put

(12)
$$\Psi(t,x) = \Phi(t,x) + 2\delta\xi(x) \quad \text{for } (t,x) \in I \times \overline{\Omega}$$

where $\xi \in C_0^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, $0 \le \xi \le 1$, $\xi(x') = 1$, $|D\xi|$, $|D^2\xi| \le 1$ and $D\xi$, $D^2\xi$ are the derivatives of ξ . Since $\Psi = \Phi$ outside the support of ξ and $\Psi(t', x') > \sup \Phi + \delta$ there exists $(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}) \in I \times \overline{\Omega}$ such that $\Psi(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}) = \sup \Psi$. By the compactness of I we can assume, taking a subsequence if necessary, that $t_{\delta} \to \overline{t}$ as $\delta \to 0$.

We claim that $\overline{t} = t_0$. Indeed, since

(13)
$$z(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta})^+ - \eta(t_{\delta}) + 2\delta \ge z(s, x)^+ - \eta(s)$$
 for $t^* \le s \le t \in I$ and $\eta(s) \le \eta(t)$ we obtain, by (8),

(14)
$$M(t_{\delta}) - \eta(t_{\delta}) + 2\delta \ge M(t) - \eta(t) \quad \text{for } t \in I.$$

Note that in view of (8), $M(t) = \sup\{z^+(s,x) : (s,x) \in \Theta_t \setminus \Theta_{t^*}\}$ for $t \in I$. Letting $\delta \to 0$ in (14) we get

$$M(\overline{t}) - \eta(\overline{t}) \ge M(t) - \eta(t)$$
 for $t \in I$,

which means by the definition of t_0 that $\overline{t} = t_0$.

It also follows from (13), (14) (for $t = t_0$) that

$$M(t_0) - \eta(t_0) \ge \limsup_{\delta \to 0} z(t_\delta, x_\delta)^+ - \eta(t_0)$$

$$\ge \liminf_{\delta \to 0} z(t_\delta, x_\delta)^+ - \eta(t_0) \ge M(t_0) - \eta(t_0),$$

which yields

(15)
$$\lim_{\delta \to 0} z(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta})^{+} = M(t_{0}).$$

Observe now that we may assume that $x_{\delta} \in \Omega$. Indeed, if $x_{\delta} \to x_0 \in \delta_0 \Omega$ then $z(t_0, x_0)^+ \leq M_0(t_0)$ and by (15) we have $M(t_0) \leq M_0(t_0)$, which contradicts (8). Moreover, by (8), (15) we can also assume that $z^+(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}) = z(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}) > 0$. Put

$$\lambda(t, x) = \eta(t) - 2\delta \xi(x).$$

Notice that $z - \lambda$ attains a local maximum at $(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}) \in (t^*, T) \times \Omega$. Since

$$D_t \lambda(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}) = \eta'(t_{\delta}), \quad D_x \lambda(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}) = -2\delta D\xi(x_{\delta}),$$
$$D_x^2 \lambda(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}) = -2\delta D^2 \xi(x_{\delta})$$

and $z \in SUB(F, g)$ in $\Theta \setminus \Theta_{t^*}$ we obtain

$$\eta'(t_{\delta}) + F(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}, z(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}), z_{(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta})}, -2\delta D\xi(x_{\delta}), -2\delta D^2\xi(x_{\delta})) \le 0$$

and

$$\eta'(t_{\delta}) + F(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}, z(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}), z_{(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta})}, -2\delta D\xi(x_{\delta}), -2\delta D^{2}\xi(x_{\delta}))$$
$$-F(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}, z(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}), z_{(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta})}, 0, 0) + F(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}, z(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}), z_{(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta})}, 0, 0) \leq 0.$$

It follows from Assumption 1 that

$$\eta'(t_{\delta}) - \omega(t_{\delta}, \max(z(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}), \|z_{(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta})}^{+}\|_{D})) - A_{\delta} \leq 0$$

where $A_{\delta} \to 0$ as $\delta \to 0$. Hence,

(16)
$$\eta'(t_{\delta}) - \omega(t_{\delta}, \|z_{(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta})}^{+}\|_{D})) - A_{\delta} \leq 0.$$

Notice that

$$\lim_{\delta \to 0} \|z_{(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta})}^{+}\|_{D} = M(t_{0}).$$

This fact follows from (15) and from the inequality

$$z(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta})^+ \le ||z_{(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta})}^+||_D \le z(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta})^+ + 2\delta$$

where the right-hand estimate is a consequence of (13) (for $t=t_{\delta}$). Letting $\delta \to 0$ in (16) we get (10). It now follows from Proposition 1 (if we put $H(t) = \omega(t, M(t))$) that

(17)
$$M(t) \le M(t^*) + \int_{t^*}^t \omega(s, M(s)) \, ds, \quad t \in [t^*, T],$$

which in view of (8) implies

(18)
$$M(t) \le M_0(T) + \int_0^t \omega(s, M(s)) ds$$
 for $t \in [t^*, T]$.

Since

$$M(t) \le M(t^*) = M_0(t^*) \le M_0(T)$$
 for $t < t^*$

inequality (18) holds for $t \in [0, T]$. It follows from standard theorems that

$$M(t) \le \mu(t, M_0(T))$$
 for $t \in [0, T]$.

Putting t = T we complete the proof.

REMARK 2. If we assume that $||g^+||_{\Gamma_t} \le \mu(t, ||g^+||_{\Gamma_0})$ for $t \in [0, T]$ then (19) $||z^+||_{E_t} \le \mu(t, ||g^+||_{\Gamma_0})$.

Proof. It follows from (17) and (8) that

$$M(t) \le \mu(t^*, M_0(0)) + \int_{t_*}^t \omega(s, M(s)) ds$$
 for $t \in [t^*, T]$

and as a result

$$M(t) \le \mu(t; t^*, \mu(t^*, M_0(0))) = \mu(t, M_0(0))$$
 for $t \in [t^*, T]$

where $\mu(t; t^*, \mu(t^*, M_0(0)))$ denotes the right-hand maximum solution of (16) through $(t^*, \mu(t^*, M_0(0)))$.

Assumption 2. 1) There exists a function ω satisfying condition "P" such that for all $(t, x, u, w) \in \Theta \times \mathbb{R} \times C(D)$, if $u \leq 0$ then

$$F(t, x, u, w, 0, 0) \le \omega(t, \max(u, ||w^-||_D)).$$

2) For every R > 0 and $|u|, ||w||_D \leq R$,

$$[F(t, x, u, w, 0, 0) - F(t, x, u, w, p, A)]^{-} \to 0$$
 as $p, A \to 0$

uniformly with respect to $(t, x, u, w) \in \Theta \times \mathbb{R} \times C(D)$.

COROLLARY 1. Suppose that F satisfies Assumption 2 and $z \in BUC(E) \cap SUP(F,g)$ then

(20)
$$||z^-||_{E_t} \le \mu(t, ||g^-||_{\Gamma_t}) \quad \text{for } t \in [0, T].$$

Moreover, if we assume that $||g^-||_{\Gamma_t} \leq \mu(t, ||g^-||_{\Gamma_0})$ for $t \in [0, T]$ then

$$||z^-||_{E_t} \le \mu(t, ||g^-||_{\Gamma_0}).$$

Proof. Notice that if $z \in SUP(F, q)$ that $-z \in SUB(\widetilde{F}, -q)$ where

(22)
$$\widetilde{F}(t, x, u, w, p, A) = -F(t, x, -u, -w, -p, -A).$$

It is easy to check that F satisfies Assumption 2 if and only if \widetilde{F} satisfies Assumption 1. Therefore Theorem 1 and Remark 2 imply (20) and (21).

Let us now introduce:

Assumption 3. 1) There exists a function ω satisfying condition "P" such that for all $(t, x, u, w) \in \Theta \times \mathbb{R} \times C(D)$, if $u \geq 0$ then

$$F(t, x, u, w, 0, 0) \ge -\omega(t, \max(|u|, ||w||_D)),$$

and if $u \le 0$ then

$$F(t, x, u, w, 0, 0) \le \omega(t, \max(|u|, ||w||_D)).$$

2) For every R > 0 and $|u|, ||w||_D \leq R$,

$$F(t, x, u, w, p, A) \rightarrow F(t, x, u, w, 0, 0)$$
 as $p, A \rightarrow 0$

uniformly with respect to $(t, x, u, w) \in \Theta \times \mathbb{R} \times C(D)$.

THEOREM 2. Suppose that F satisfies Assumption 3 and $z \in BUC(E) \cap SOL(F,g)$. Then

(23)
$$||z||_{E_t} \le \mu(t, ||g||_{\Gamma_t}) \quad \text{for } t \in [0, T].$$

Moreover, if $||g||_{\Gamma_t} \le \mu(t, ||g||_{\Gamma_0})$ for $t \in [0, T]$ then

$$||z||_{E_t} \le \mu(t, ||g||_{\Gamma_0}).$$

Proof. The proof follows by the same method as for Theorem 1. The only difference is that we put |z| in place of z^+ . Now, we have

$$M(t) = ||z||_{\overline{\Theta}_t}, \quad \overline{M}(t) = ||z||_{\overline{E}_t}, \quad M_0(t) = ||z||_{\overline{F}_t} \quad \text{for } t \in [0, T],$$

$$\Phi(t, x) = |z(t, x)| - \eta(t),$$

and since $|z(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta})| > 0$ we consider two cases $z(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}) > 0$ and $z(t_{\delta}, x_{\delta}) < 0$. Both lead in view of Assumption 3 to (23) and (24).

3. Comparison results. Let $F, \overline{F}: \Theta \times \mathbb{R} \times C(D) \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathcal{M}(n) \to \mathbb{R}$ and $g, \overline{g}: \Gamma \to \mathbb{R}$ be continuous functions.

ASSUMPTION 4. 1) There exists a function ω satisfying condition "P" such that for all (t, x, u, w, p, A), $(t, x, v, z, p, A) \in \Theta \times \mathbb{R} \times C(D) \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathcal{M}(n)$, if $u \geq v$ then

$$F(t, x, u, w, p, A) - \overline{F}(t, x, v, z, p, A) \ge -\omega(t, \max(|u - v|, \|(w - z)^+\|_D)).$$

2) For every R > 0 and $|u|, ||w||_D \le R$, $F(t, x, u, w, \cdot, \cdot)$ is continuous uniformly with respect to $(t, x, u, w) \in \Theta \times \mathbb{R} \times C(D)$.

ASSUMPTION 5. 1) There exists a function ω satisfying condition "P" such that for all (t, x, u, w, p, A), $(t, x, v, z, p, A) \in \Theta \times \mathbb{R} \times C(D) \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathcal{M}(n)$, if $u \geq v$ then

$$F(t,x,u,w,p,A) - \overline{F}(t,x,v,z,p,A) \ge -\omega(t,\max(|u-v|,\|w-z\|_D)),$$
 and if $u \le v$ then

$$F(t, x, u, w, p, A) - \overline{F}(t, x, v, z, p, A) \le \omega(t, \max(|u - v|, \|w - z\|_D)).$$

2) $F(t, x, u, w, \cdot, \cdot)$ and $\overline{F}(t, x, u, w, \cdot, \cdot)$ are continuous uniformly with respect to $(t, x, u, w) \in \Theta \times \mathbb{R} \times C(D)$ for every R > 0 and $|u|, ||w||_D \leq R$.

Theorem 3. Suppose that F and \overline{F} satisfy Assumption 4 and $u \in \mathrm{BUC}(E) \cap \mathrm{SUB}(F,g), \ v \in C^{1,2}(\overline{\Theta}) \cap \mathrm{BUC}(E) \cap \mathrm{SUP}(\overline{F},\overline{g}).$ Then

(25)
$$||(u-v)^+||_{E_t} \le \mu(t, ||(g-\overline{g})^+||_{\Gamma_t}) \quad \text{for } t \in [0, T].$$

Moreover, if $\|(g-\overline{g})^+\|_{\Gamma_t} \le \mu(t, \|(g-\overline{g})^+\|_{\Gamma_0})$ for $t \in [0, T]$ then

(26)
$$||(u-v)^+||_{E_t} \le \mu(t, ||(g-\bar{g})^+||_{\Gamma_0}).$$

Proof. It is easily seen that $w^* = u - v \in SUB(F[v], g - \overline{g})$ where

$$F[v](t, x, z, w, p, A)$$

$$= F(t, x, z + v(t, x), w + v_{(t,x)}, p + D_x v(t, x), A + D_x^2 v(t, x))$$

$$- \overline{F}(t, x, v(t, x), v_{(t,x)}, D_x v(t, x), D_x^2 v(t, x))$$

satisfies Assumption 1. Theorem 1 and Remark 2 imply the desired assertions.

Similar reasoning yields

Theorem 4. Suppose that F and \overline{F} satisfy Assumption 5 and $u \in \mathrm{BUC}(E) \cap \mathrm{SOL}(F,g), \ v \in C^{1,2}(\overline{\Theta}) \cap \mathrm{BUC}(E) \cap \mathrm{SOL}(\overline{F},\overline{g}).$ Then

(27)
$$||u - v||_{E_t} \le \mu(t, ||g - \overline{g}||_{\Gamma_t}) for t \in [0, T].$$

Moreover, if $||g - \overline{g}||_{\Gamma_t} \le \mu(t, ||g - \overline{g}||_{\Gamma_0})$ for $t \in [0, T]$ then

(28)
$$||u - v||_{E_t} \le \mu(t, ||g - \overline{g}||_{\Gamma_0}).$$

Remark 3. For first order equations (with F, \overline{F} not depending on A) some results, which are not consequences of the above, are presented in [10].

Remark 4. The above results may by extended to weakly coupled systems of differential-functional equations.

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